

**Docket No.: 12412/1** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**APPLICANTS** 

Akio SATOU et al.

SERIAL NO.

10/089,443 (Natl. Phase of PCT/JP01/06131)

**FILED** 

**FOR** 

29 March 2002

METHOD OF LASER BEAM MACHINING TC 1700

**GROUP ART UNIT:** 

EXAMINER

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D.C. 20231

## SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

The preliminary amendment filed with the application on 29 March 2002 is hereby amended as follows:

## In the Claims:

The previous amendment to claim 4 should be further amended to read as follows:

4. (Twice Amended) The method of laser beam machining according to claim 1. wherein laser beam machining is a processing which is selected from padding, welding and hardening and to which the part to be processed is subjected.